

AS TO THE "HERALD" YARN.

Professor Alexander Gives a Few of the Facts in the Case.

COMMODORE JONES AND HIS COURSE.

A Letter from Captain John Meek, who was Present at the Settlement Affected by Jones—The Letter was Very Friendly to the Chiefs of Hawaii.

In view of the absurd story published in the N. Y. Herald, which attacks the good name of a distinguished officer of the American navy, I beg leave to submit a few facts bearing on the case.

The late R. C. Wyllie, Minister of Foreign Affairs for the Hawaiian Kingdom, in his report to the Legislature of 1855, commented severely on Commodore Jones' course in pressing the settlement of the claims of the American traders against the native chiefs in December, 1820.

Commodore Jones' reply and a mass of accompanying documents were published in the supplement to the report of the Minister of Foreign Affairs to the Legislature of 1856.

The American Minister Resident at Honolulu, Hon. D. L. Gregg, also took the testimony of Rev. A. Bishop, Capt. John Meek, Governor Kekuanoua, John H. and Kanaina, which was published at the same time.

Capt. John Meek, a well-known and respected resident, stated as follows in his letter dated January 10, 1856:

"I was present at the final mediation and settlement affected through the friendly offices of Capt. Jones. He acted as a sort of umpire between the parties. Commodore Jones had been examining and trying to arrange the matter for a month or more, and understood it fully. The final council or meeting at which the decision was rendered, lasted only a short time, perhaps not over two or three hours. Most of the chiefs were there, and some of the claimants also. The claims were reduced to a considerable extent. Commodore Jones took the side of the chiefs, and was regarded as very friendly to them. They were perfectly satisfied and even pleased, and admitted the amount of his award to be justly due. The other parties were not content, and complained that their interests had not been duly considered. These claims were for vessels and goods—sometimes by the cargo sold to the chiefs. Six vessels, I think, had been purchased by them, and goods to a large extent."

Capt. Jones was always mild and gentlemanly. He used no threats, and employed no coercion. No naval commander was ever more respected or praised by the chiefs, and none, I was satisfied, ever better deserved their confidence. The collection of sandalwood to liquidate the claims was not regarded as oppressive or burdensome. Each native was allowed a proportion of what he gathered, and thus all derived some advantage from the tax imposed."

From the replies made by M. Kekuanoua, John H., Kanaina and John Meek to the twenty-five questions put by Mr. Wyllie, I can only make a few extracts.

Q "State the names of all the Americans who made claims on the Hawaiian Government; the amount of the claim of each American firm or individual the particular kind of goods that he had sold to the Government or to the chiefs," etc.

A. By Kekuanoua and John H.—"William Denny, Capt. Ebbetts, Thomas Meek, William French, Consul Jones and his partners; do not recollect the amount of each claim; the greater part of the debt was for vessels sold and for the manufactured goods; cannot say precisely for how long a time they were old debts."

A. By Kanaina. "Says that 'Aluli,' or the American who carried his head on one side, he superintended and brought forward all the claims; says some of them were just claims, but the greater portion unjust. The chiefs had been in the habit of going and buying things, thinking little of the price, as they had to pay in sandalwood; they did not then know the value of dollars, of goods or of sandalwood correctly."

John Meek added the names of Captains Andrew, Blanchard, Wildes and Brown, and said that "Aluli" was the name given by the natives to the Consul, John Coffin Jones.

Q. Do you remember the price at which any particular vessel, boat or brass or iron gun was sold? If so state the price of such article."

A. By Kekuanoua and John H.—"The brig Haaboo (Cleopatra's barge) was charged at \$600 pieces; a little vessel built near where the Customhouse is, a schooner of about 70 tons, was charged at \$400 pieces, the large brass gun now lying in the fort, was charged at \$500 pieces."

To the above list of vessels purchased by the chiefs we can add the Albatross, purchased in October, 1818, of John Ebbetts for 400 pieces of sandalwood; the brigantine Bordeaux Packet, purchased in 1817 of Captain Blanchard; the brig Niu, sold to Liholilo in August, 1819, for \$51,750; the brig Thaddeus, purchased in 1820 for \$40,000; the brig Kamehameha, purchased of Thomas Meek in 1828 for \$400 pieces; besides several vessels, including the Becket, the Kamahaloani, etc., sold to Kaunualili, King of Kauai—on several of which unpaid balances remained due for a long time.

Commodore Jones' orders from the Secretary of the Navy directed him, among other things, "to secure certain debts due American citizens by the native government."

A. By Kanaina. One schooner, about 200 tons, sold by a captain (Reynolds—was his mate) for 40,000 panmas (7). The brass gun was paid for in sandalwood, he does not remember how much; a piece of silk was valued at \$40 and paid for in sandalwood at \$10 the piece. Few of the chiefs had dollars; the goods were paid for in sandalwood.

A. By John Meek. Goods were

id cheap for sandalwood; there was then no cash to pay for them. One panma consisted of two piculs. Kanaina means the brig W. very; do not know the price paid for her, but thinks it could not have exceeded \$15,000 or \$20,000; Reynolds must know.

Q. Had the American missionaries or any of them anything to do with the arrangements made by Captain Jones? If so, state what missionaries by name?

A. By Kekuanoua and John H. Do not think they had anything to do with it.

By Kanaina. The missionaries were employed simply to interpret for the chiefs.

A. By John Meek. Thinks all the missionaries had to do with the settlement was, to interpret between the chiefs and Capt. Jones.

Q. Did the missionaries or any of them tell the King and chiefs, before the arrival of Captain Jones, that the claims of the American traders were just, and that the chiefs ought to pay them?

A. By Kekuanoua and John H. No, do not recollect that they ever did.

A. By Kanaina. Does not remember that the missionaries did, but knows that Kaahumanu ordered the chiefs, Boki, Kuakini and Hoapili, also Nahi, always to pay at the time for whatever they got.

A. By John Meek: Thinks "all the missionaries had to do with the settlement was to interpret between the chiefs and Captain Jones."

Stephen Reynolds' diary, kept at the time contains the following references:

1820, December 11. "Signed a request to Captain Jones to speak of old debts."

December 14. Captain Jones and Consul Jones went to the chiefs to talk of old debts and other important matters."

1827, January 2. "At 10 o'clock the chiefs assembled under the grove of cocoanut trees below the fort, where they assembled all the people of the village to hear their orders, viz: That every man should go to the mountains and get half a picul of sandalwood for the Government, and half they got over (this) should be their own; the women to produce tapes or mats or a dollar apiece. The men who choose can pay four dollars as an equivalent for their half picul; a good regulation if put in practice. Some came to buy axes before night."

Mr. Reynolds was then bookkeeper for W. French & Co.

Commodore Jones himself, in his letter of December 29, 1855, states in regard to the sandalwood edict, "The tariff schedule, the ground-work of Mr. Wyllie's bitterness against me, was the inception of that gifted noble, Kalaimoku (alias William Pitt), and was never seen by me until officially promulgated on the 27th of December, 1826."

The sandalwood collected under this edict was mostly squandered by Governor Boki, and on the arrival of the U. S. S. Vincennes, Captain Finch, another conference was held before Captain Finch, at which the king and chiefs signed a note dated November 2, 1829, promising to pay 4,700 piculs of sandalwood.

These claims were again brought before Commodore Downes, of the U. S. S. Potomac, in July, 1832, without any settlement being arrived at.

At the second visit of the U. S. S. Peacock, Commodore Kennedy, in September, 1836, the claims of the traders were once more discussed, and "an old claim for \$60,000 was acknowledged, besides another much smaller one."

These claims were finally settled October 4th, 1843, by the payment of \$14,000 by Dr. G. P. Judd, for the Hawaiian Government, to John C. Jones, representing the claimants. The correspondence and the final receipt in full have been preserved.

I need hardly add that the American Board has always forbidden its missionaries to engage in trade.

The traders, who were the actual claimants, were for the most part bitter enemies of the American mission. It is to be regretted that no list or schedule of their claims has ever been published. Most of the documents filed with Commodore Jones' report were consumed in the great fire that destroyed the offices of the Navy Department some twenty years ago.

In the testimony above cited Captain Meek said: "He does not know how long a time Captain Jones took to examine the accounts, and does not believe the chiefs know; it would be impossible to overhaul so many old and long accounts in a period so short as stated." After a candid review of all the existing evidence, it is impossible for one to resist the conviction that many of those claims were exorbitant and unjust. It is hard, however, to believe that they ever amounted to anything like \$500,000, in view of the statements afterwards made before Captain Finch, and again before Commodore Kennedy. Certainly nothing like that sum was ever paid either in money or sandalwood on that account.

The late Walter Murray Gibson, soon after his arrival in these islands and frequently thereafter, threw out dark hints about "a great wrong" that had been perpetrated by the United States against the feeble government of Hawaii, which, he said, far exceeded the injuries inflicted by the ships of any other nation. He never dreamed, however, of including the American missionaries in the charge, except for an excess of charity toward their enemies, who had brought forward those claims.

This crowning absurdity was reserved for the New York Herald's correspondent.

When Mr. Gibson had become the Hawaiian Minister of Foreign Affairs, he sent an elaborate dispatch to His late Majesty's Envoy at Washington, dated June 15th, 1885, in which he set forth at great length his view of the transaction, and endeavored to make it the basis for a pecuniary claim on the Government of the United States, saying that, "even at this late day, the descendants of the people who suffered should receive that compensation which the generous and magnanimous sense of a great people, in respect to a wrong inflicted upon a poor and weak community would inspire."

Minister Gibson's despatch was duly communicated to Hon. F. T. Frelinghuysen, United States Secretary of State, and probably still reposes in the appropriate pigeon-hole, but, as a device for "raising the wind" financially, it was a failure.

Yours, very truly,
W. D. ALEXANDER.

LATEST NEWS FROM MAUI.

Interesting Programme Carried Out at Maunaloa Seminary.

GOSSIP ABOUT THE COMING RACES.

A Game of Baseball at Makawao—Malicious Japanese Get Two Years in Jail—A Grand Ball to be Given on the Evening of the Fourth of July.

MAUI, June 23.—The doles far niente period for teachers is fast approaching; the signs of the times—summer heat and commencement days—both point impressively toward that restless word, vacation. The 20th inst. witnessed the annual reception day of that pleasant school on the mountain slope, Maunaloa Seminary. Friends and relations were early at hand in large numbers, and were much interested in the class-room exercises which consumed the hours between nine and eleven.

After the heavy viands of literature and mathematics came the sweetmeats of the banquet, rhetoric and music. The anthem "For God So Loved the World," was nobly sung by a magnificent chorus of girl voices, and was a fitting prelude to a long programme replete with solos, duets, trios, choruses, recitations, dialogues and farces.

The thirty-three events on the schedule all merited compliment, and the singing might be termed professional in its perfect harmony and execution. The following seemed to especially please the audience: a piano trio by Miss Morris (one of the teachers) and Lizzie Rogers and Maggie Daniels; a recitation, "The Ovals' Convention," by Lottie Taylor; a solo, "Makalapua," by Caroline Kapohakihewa; and the grand finale which was loudly applauded. Speeches, eulogistic and advisory were made by Mr. A. T. Atkinson, Rev. A. Pali of Lahaina, Dr. E. G. Beckwith, Rev. S. Kapu of Wailuku, and John Katama Esq. The teachers of the school are: Miss McLennan, Principal; Misses Hammond, Morris, Renwick and Smith assistants. The trustees of the institution, who held an annual meeting during the day, are: Dr. E. G. Beckwith, Messrs. H. P. Baldwin, C. H. Dickey, J. W. Colville, and Geo. E. Beckwith. The autumnal term opens September 5th.

STRAY SCRIBBLINGS.

During Saturday P. M., the 16th inst., the June term of Court at Wailuku came to an end, just after the foreign jury had finished with the civil cases.

The sentence of the Lahaina Japanese for malicious burning of cane was two years in prison and \$100 fine.

It is reported that C. A. Doyle of Honolulu received the \$500 reward offered by Mr. Horner for the conviction of the guilty party or parties.

Hamakuaoko Mill stopped grinding this week.

W. L. Holokahiki, Esq., the oldest Hawaiian member of the bar, is visiting in Makawao.

Haleakala Hall, Makawao, was again gaily decorated last Friday evening, the 22d inst., and twenty devotees of Terpsichore tripped lightly through the mazes of polka, quadrille and waltz. A stringed band from Hamakuaoko, consisting of two guitars, a taro patch, and accordion made the rafters echo and reecho with lively strains of dance music. "A good time" was the verdict of the ladies and gentlemen, and "gratitude" to Mrs. Alexander was the ruling of the judges. On dit that the social history of the 25th of July will record another pretty wedding at the Paia church.

The Maui Racing Association will give a grand ball on the evening of July 4th, at Spreckelsville Hall. Dancing will commence at eight o'clock sharp. Music will be furnished by the Hawaiian National Band. Special trains will run. Mrs. P. B. Aiken is a new arrival and resident of Paia village.

Misses McLennan and Smith departed on Friday for a Hilo vacation visit. Miss Renwick will depart next week for Kailua to spend a short time with Miss Anna Paris.

Miss Morris is to teach the remainder of the term at the Wailuku school. So much for Maunaloa teachers.

The week's arrivals: Rudolph Spreckels came per Wednesday's Claudine, and Delegates Baldwin, Pogue and Kalua per Friday's Kinan.

The Haiku and Sorokels ditches rose seven inches and more during Wednesday the 20th inst., but, alas, they soon fell again.

Race notes: Per Claudio of this week, the horses Nevada, Amario, Lokulani, Jockey, "Cal," Leonard and "Dickie" Davis came up with them. More racers are expected next week.

It is reported that among the entries in the Corinthian race on the 4th are Billy C. Black Diamond, Winfield, and Queen L.

Madame Gossip says that a great match race will occur in September in Honolulu at \$1000 a corner. It is whispered that the horses concerned are Amario, Lord Brock, Duke Spencer and possibly Senator Stanford. If true, the event will be of more than slight interest.

During Wednesday afternoon the 20th inst. on the Makawao Polo Grounds a match game of ball took place between the Makawao and All-Kula nines. The following score tells the story:

SCORE BY INNINGS.
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
All Kula.....1 0 2 3 5 4 0 0—13
Makawao.....1 5 2 2 3 0 1 0—14
The schooner Zampa, Peterson master, set sail for San Francisco during the 21st inst. She bore away 278 250 pounds of Haiku sugar and 930 000 of Paia—a total value of \$30 205 25.
Weather: Dry, very dry.

Some of the idols that were found on Necker Island have been sold to the Bishop Museum.

New Advertisements.

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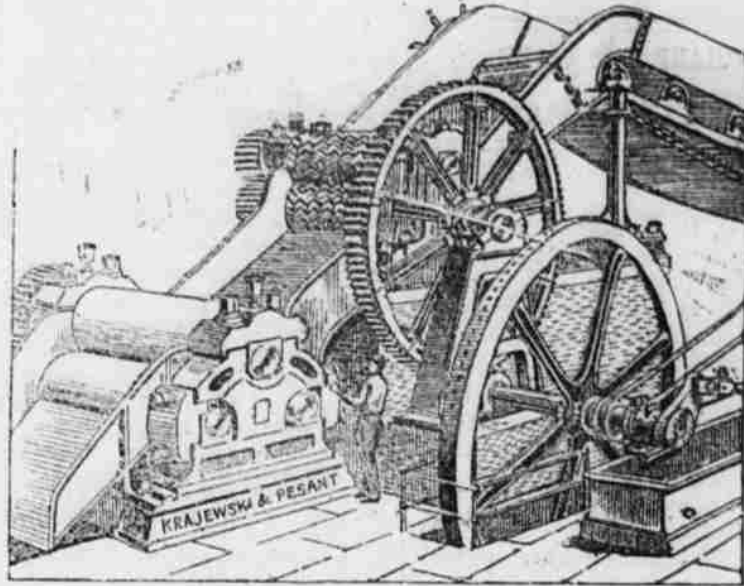
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